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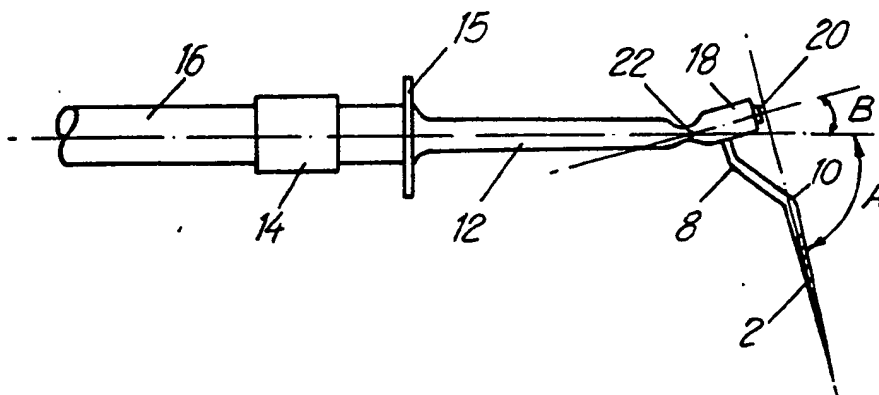
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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/DK86/00040 (22) International Filing Date: 14 April 1986 (14.04.86) (31) Priority Application Number: 1686/85 (32) Priority Date: 15 April 1985 (15.04.85) (33) Priority Country: DK (71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: GOOF, Sven, Karl, Lennart [SE/DK]; G1. Strandvej 236 A, DK-3050 Humlebæk (DK). (74) Agent: A/S L. GOOF; Håndværkersvinget 6, DK-2970 Hørsholm (DK). (81) Designated States: AT (European patent), BE (European patent), CH (European patent), DE (European patent), FR (European patent), GB (European patent), IT (European patent), JP, LU (European patent), NL (European patent), SE (European patent), US.</p>		<p>Published <i>With international search report. In English translation (filed in Danish).</i></p>

(54) Title: TOOL, IN PARTICULAR FOR USE IN CLEANSING TOOTH ROOT CANALS, AND DRIVE INSTRUMENT FOR SUCH TOOL



(57) Abstract

A broaching tool has a needle-shaped working portion (2) and a shank portion which is shaped for attachment in the distal end (18) of a drive bar (12) of a drive instrument for the tool. The shank portion of the tool has at least one bend (8) and preferably also a second oppositely directed bend (10). A proximal end (14) of the drive bar (12) of the drive instrument is adapted to be coupled to a vibratory element (16) which, thereby, is able to generate longitudinal high frequency vibrations in the drive bar (12). The distal drive bar end (18) is angled (B) about an axis (22) which acts as a hinge having a certain rigidity of bending. By adapting and matching a.o. the angle (B) and the bends (8, 10) in the tool, it is possible to compensate away destructive natural oscillations in the tool which, thereby, can be powered and used with high working frequencies without risk of fatigue fractures in the material of the tool.

TITLE: Tool, in particular for use in cleansing tooth root canals,
and drive instrument for such tool.

05 The present invention relates to a file or broaching tool, in
particular for use in cleansing and preparation of tooth root canals
and otherwise of the type defined in the opening clause of claim 1.
Furthermore, this invention relates to a drive element adapted to drive
such a tool and being of the type defined in the opening clause of
claim 4.

10 In connection with root-treatment of a tooth it is important that
root canals in the tooth are cleansed effectively. In that connection
it is common practice to use a relatively thin round file or broach
which is inserted into the root canal and is pulled back and forth
therein, while the dentist grasps and manipulates one end or a handle
15 portion of the file with his fingers. For the dentist this is a
difficult operation which also may be rather unpleasant for the dentist
as well as for the patient, in particular when teeth are to be treated
far back in the patient's mouth, since the dentist has to operate with
several fingers inserted completely into the patient's mouth in order
20 to use and manipulate the file.

Therefore attempts have been made to mount such a broach or endodontic
file at the end of a drive element or drive member of the type which
is adapted to be powered by an ultrasonic handpiece of the sorts which
are in common use in many dental clinics. Such handpieces include an
25 elongated and relatively slim housing which is used held as a pencil,
and the outer end of the housing is adapted for mounting replaceable
work tools thereon, for instance tools for tooth scaling. The drive
member of such work tools is powered to make mechanical and ultrasonic
longitudinal vibrations by means of vibratory equipment in the interior
30 of the housing.

Inherently, the ideal pattern of motion for a needle-shaped work
tool of the type in question would be a reciprocating movement whereby
the tool, or at least its working part, is integrally moved in a
generally axial motion. Therefore it would be natural to mount the
35 work tool or needle as a direct extension of the bar-shaped drive stem
of the drive member. This would, however, result in that it would be
almost impossible to use the needle in the patient's mouth when the

the ultrasonic handpiece is held and manipulated in the usual manner, i.e. held as a pencil.

Thus, for practical reasons the axis of the needle or its working direction cannot coincide with the principal direction of motion for the powering mechanical vibrations which are generated by the ultrasonic handpiece and are transferred to the needle through the drive instrument for the needle. Consequently, the powering vibrations will provide substantial transversal oscillations in the needle. As a consequence, it has been necessary to use frequencies of movement which are substantially below the resonant frequencies of the needle since, otherwise, these resonant frequencies would be excited and result in transversal natural oscillations in the needle. Typically, such natural oscillations will be undamped and will, consequently, be very unfortunate and straining for the material of the needle which, after a rather short periode of use, will break because of fatigue fractures in the material. This has been a problem in connection with previous attempts of mounting and powering a root canal file or broach needle by means of a drive instrument and an ultrasonic handpiece of the type mentioned above.

When a needle is operating in a tooth root canal, it would be an advantage - a. o. of less discomfort to the patient - if the amplitude of motion of the needle is as small as possible. However, the amplitude is inversely proportional to the frequency of motion and when a given amount of work is to be made within a specific periode of time, then the desire as to a small amplitude will lead to a need of a frequency as high as possible and, again, this would result in risks of fractures in the needle.

In a commercially available instrument of the type in question a straight needle or root canal file is removably mounted as an axial extension of a bar-shaped drive member and in order to achieve an appropriate working position for the needle, the drive member is shaped with a bend which directs the needle in an appropriate direction relative to the main axis of the instrument. However, the bend of the drive member will provide or give rise to substantial transversal oscillations in the needle and, consequently, it is only possible to operate at relatively low frequencies, if needle breakage is to be avoided. Moreover, the manner of mounting the needle makes it necessary to use a particular

collet chuck at the end of the drive member in order to avoid that the needle comes loose during use.

Another commercially available instrument of the type under consideration makes use of a straight needle or root canal file which is attached in a particular head portion at the outermost end of a bar-shaped drive member. The head portion is designed as an unsymmetrical body relative to the longitudinal axis or the axis of oscillation of the drive member. As a result of the lacking symmetry this head portion will perform a pattern of oscillation which includes special components of vibration having a main direction which is transverse to the powering longitudinal oscillations in the drive member. The straight needle is attached to the head portion and is directed in the direction of these special components of vibration. However, such a head portion is awkward to use in the patient's mouth and, moreover, inappropriate or destructive transversal oscillations will still be provided in the needle.

On the above background it is an object of this invention to provide a tool of the type introductorily defined which can be powered to operate with high frequencies without the risk of destructive oscillations being excited in the tool.

This is accomplished with the tool of the present invention which is characterized by the features defined in the characterizing clause of claim 1.

Thus, a tool according to the invention can advantageously be used in a drive member or an instrument of the type just mentioned in which the outer or distal end of the drive member is shaped as a head which makes special oscillations with components transverse to the main direction of the powering longitudinal vibrations. However, the best results are obtainable when using the tool of this invention in a drive instrument in accordance with the invention which is characterized by the features defined in the characterizing clause of claim 4. Thus, the angled part of the drive stem and the bending of the tool shank can be matched together in such a manner that unfortunately directed vibration components can be suppressed to a substantial extent.

In the following special aspects and advantages of the invention will be described on the basis of specific embodiments illustrated on

the drawing in which:

Fig. 1 shows a tool in accordance with the invention as seen from one side;

05 Fig. 2 is a side elevation similar to figure 1 but showing a preferred embodiment of the tool of the invention;

Fig. 3 is a side elevation showing a tool as that of Figure 2 attached into a preferred embodiment of the drive instrument in accordance with the invention; and

10 Fig. 4 is a side elevation showing - partially in section and enlarged - the distal end of the drive instrument of Figure 3.

Referring now to the drawing, fig. 1 thereof shows a tool according to the invention which includes a generally straight working portion 2 which merges into a shank portion 4. As schematically indicated, the working portion 2 is provided with appropriate cutting edges which
15 may be of the type used on a usual broaching needle or endodontic file. In fig. 1 the shank portion 4 has a bend 8 so that a shank end 6 is provided and is adapted for attachment in a drive instrument, and an axis of the shank end defines an angle with the axis of the working portion 2.

20 Fig. 2 illustrates a preferred embodiment which also has a further bend 10 in its shank portion 4 so that the shank portion includes two oppositely directed bends 8, 10 with parallel axes of bending. The bend 10 which is closest to the working portion 2, may advantageously be more rounded than the first bend 8. The two bends 8, 10 need not
25 be so adapted that the axis of the shank end 6 is parallel with the axis of the working portion 2.

Referring now to fig. 3 a drive instrument according to the invention includes a generally bar-shaped drive member 12 having a proximal end portion 14 adapted for insertion into an ultrasonic handpiece. The
30 proximal end portion 14 includes means for coupling to the oscillator equipment of the handpiece so that longitudinal high frequency vibrations are provided in the drive member 12. In the embodiment shown these coupling means comprise a socket whereby the drive member 12 is rigidly connected with one end of a usual ferrite core indicated at 16. This
35 core is part of the oscillator equipment and high frequency longitudinal vibrations are generated in the core by means of an alternating magnetic field provided in the handpiece.

In the embodiment shown the vibration providing core 16 is permanently connected with the socket on the end portion 14 and, accordingly, the core 16 can be regarded as being a part of the drive member 12. This is expedient but is not an absolute necessity, the
05 main thing being that one end of the drive member 12 is quickly and easily insertable into a handpiece of the type contemplated and during the insertion can be effectively coupled together with the powering or vibratory device of the handpiece so that longitudinal vibrations are provided in the drive member 12.

10 The drive member 12 may also include a flange 15 for use in the mounting in the handpiece. Preferably, the various components of the drive member are also so adapted that the powering longitudinal vibrations in the drive member 12 will include a nodal center at the flange 15 and a maximum of motion close by the other or distal end
15 18 of the drive member.

Generally considered, the distal end of the drive member 12 is designed as a separate oscillating body with a center of gravity which is offset relative to the longitudinal axis or the axis of vibration for the drive member 12. This particular oscillating body will,
20 accordingly, perform a separate oscillatory pattern about an axis which is indicated at 22, and these oscillations will include substantial components acting transverse to the powering longitudinal vibrations in the drive member 12.

In other words this particular oscillating body at the distal
25 end 18 of the drive member could be regarded as a separate oscillatory system which transforms or redirects a part of the powering longitudinal vibrations in the drive member 12 into oscillations which act generally transverse to the main direction of the powering longitudinal vibrations. These redirected oscillations can be used to power a tool or a needle,
30 and the influences thereon will include a substantially less content of transversal components compared to a corresponding tool which is attached in and powered by an entirely straight drive member with uniform cross section.

Because of the offset center of gravity, the movements at the
35 particular body at the distal end 18 of the drive member will be elliptical in a plane defined by the longitudinal axis of the drive member and an axis which extends through the point 22 and the center

of gravity for the body at the end 18. This elliptical movement can be stabilized when the nodal center at the flange 15 is fixed or retained.

05 If a tool of this invention as that of fig. 1 or fig. 2 is considered separately, and if the working portion 2 is supposed to be powered at its free end with a powering longitudinal vibration, then the angled shank end 6 would also be able to transform longitudinal vibrations in a similar manner, since also the shank end 6 has a center of gravity which is offset relative to the longitudinal axis of the
10 working portion 2. In this situation the shank end 6 would, accordingly, also perform an elliptical movement.

By an appropriate shaping the two elliptical patterns of motion can be made to correspond to each other as regards size and shape. Simultaneously, the resonant frequencies of the two elliptical oscillations
15 can be so adapted that they are in the same frequency area, but yet they are so different that one oscillation cannot generate the other one. Typically, this means that the resonant frequencies differ from each other by a factor in the range from 2 to 10.

When the two patterns of motion are coupled together, for instance
20 as shown in fig. 3, and if the two coupled systems are powered by longitudinal vibrations in the drive member 12, then the resonances in the tool will be removed or suppressed, because the tool is powered in the correct - or almost correct - pattern of motion, but with a mis-matched frequency. Consequently, the body or mass at the distal
25 end 18 will control or drive the tool in the pattern of motion which is determined by the body and can propagate into the entire tool in the shape of oscillations with very small amplitudes, because the oscillations are not in harmony with the geometry and natural oscillations of the tool. Since the amplitudes are small the strains in the
30 tool material are also small, and destructive oscillations are not provided in the tool material.

Accordingly, the tool of this invention can be powered with high frequency and long lifetime by means of a drive instrument of the type described above having a distal end or mass 18 with an offset center
35 of gravity.

The drive instrument according to this invention is particular by having the distal end 18 angled about the axis 22 to an angle B

relative to the drive member 12, and there is no need of a specially shaped and perhaps bulky head which easily will get in the way during use of the tool in the patient's mouth. However, the length of the end portion 18 should preferably be short - for instance of the same order of magnitude as the diameter of the end portion 18.

In order to tune or match the special oscillatory system of which the end portion 18 is a part, to the powering vibratory system it is expedient to make a local reduction of the dimension of material of the drive member 12 at the area of bending about the axis 22. In the embodiment shown this reduction is made as local flattenings 24, whereby the transverse dimension of the drive member is not reduced - but is rather somewhat increased - in the direction of axis 22, i.e. at right angles to the drawing plane in fig. 3.

Thereby, the area about the axis 22 will operate as a sort of hinge which has bigger or smaller bending rigidity according to how much the material thickness has been reduced at 24. In this manner the mass or body at the end 18 can be made to oscillate with frequencies which are lower than the generator frequency, and if the difference is sufficiently big, then the generator frequency (from core 16) will be able to maintain the oscillations in the angled drive member end 18.

Thus, there is provided a system or an equipment, whereby powering ultrasonic vibrations (as an example 2 kHz) which still is very high compared to previously obtained or obtainable working frequencies in tools of the type in question. Simultaneously, compensations have been made for the tendency of the tool to perform destructive natural oscillations.

Moreover, the angling of the end portion 18 and the angling of the tool in accordance with the invention can be used to obtain that the working portion 2 of the tool attains an appropriate angle A relative to the longitudinal direction of the drive member 12 and of the entire handpiece.

As shown in fig. 4 the clamping of the shank end 6 of the tool in the distal end 18 of the drive member can appropriately be accomplished by means of a transverse bore which possibly may be through-going, in the end portion 18, and an appropriately recessed screw may be used to safely secure the tool in place, as indicated at 20 in fig. 4.

The first bend 8 of the tool shank 4 should preferably be rather close to the surface of the end portion 18, when the tool is mounted and secured therein. In addition the tool should be secured in such a position that the bending axis 22 in the drive member 12 is parallel
05 with each bending axis in the tool of the invention.

While the tool and drive instrument of this invention primarily have been developed for use in connection with root treatments of teeth, the tool of the invention has turned out to be so efficient that it is very suitable as a proper drilling tool, for instance for making very
10 fine holes in bone tissues or other materials with similar character and hardness. A contributing reason of this is that relatively big amounts of emergy (as an example 5 watts) can be transferred with equipment in accordance with the invention.

CLAIMS:

1. Tool, in particular for use in cleansing and preparation of tooth root canals and comprising a generally straight and needle-shaped working portion and a shank portion for attachment in a drive instrument, c h a r a c t e r i z e d by said shank portion including at least one angling relative to a longitudinal axis of the working portion.

2. Tool in accordance with claim 1, c h a r a c t e r i z e d by said shank portion having a double-bend or crank.

3. Tool in accordance with claim 2, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the second bend which is closest to said working portion, in said shank portion is more rounded than the first bend in said shank portion.

4. Drive instrument, in particular for driving a tool in accordance with claim 1, 2 or 3 and comprising a generally bar-shaped drive member having a proximal end portion which is adapted to be operatively coupled to an ultrasonic oscillator device in order to be powered thereby to make longitudinal mechanical vibrations, and a distal end portion which is adapted and shaped as a head portion with means for removably mounting and retaining a shank end of a generally needle-shaped tool, said head portion being designed to perform a particular pattern of oscillations including components of oscillation with a main direction being transverse to said powering longitudinal vibrations, c h a r a c t e r i z e d by said head portion being shaped as an angling of the distal end portion of said drive member about a bending axis which is at right angles to the main direction of said powering longitudinal vibrations.

5. Drive instrument in accordance with claim 4, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the material thickness of the drive member is reduced perpendicular to said bending axis by a local reduction of thickness at the area of bending.

6. Drive instrument in accordance with claim 4 or 5, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the angle of bending of said distal end of said drive member is matched to the bending of the tool shank in order to compensate away resonances in the tool.

Fig.1.

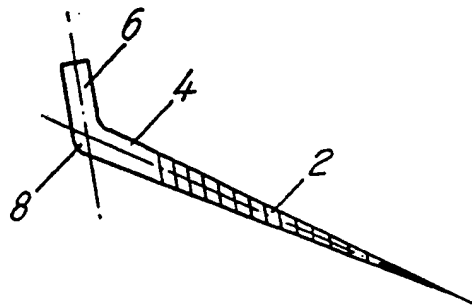


Fig.2.

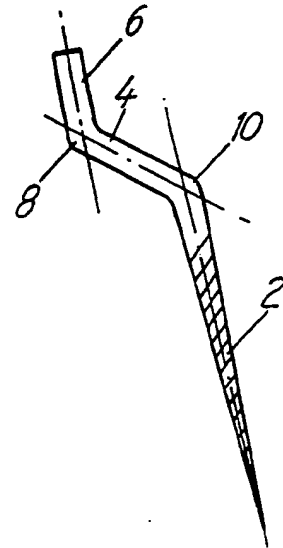


Fig.3.

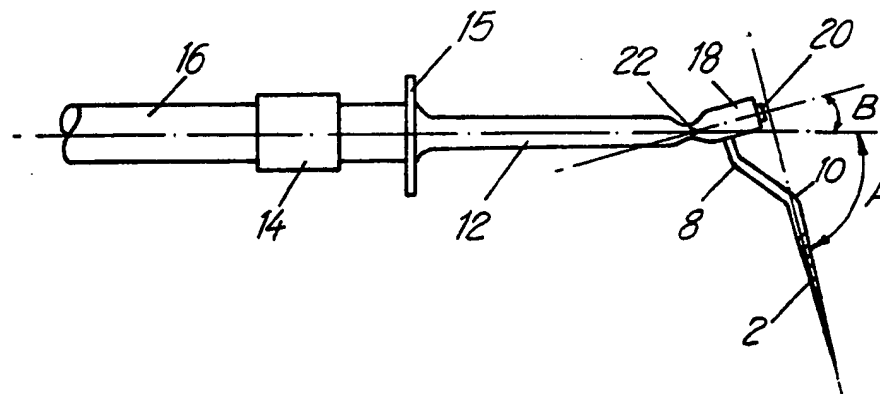
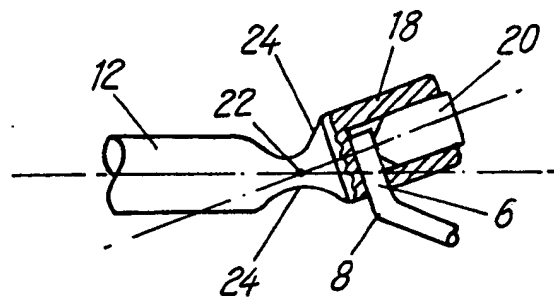



Fig.4.



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/DK86/00040

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ⁶		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC 4		
A 61 C 1/07, 3/03		
II. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum Documentation Searched ⁷		
Classification System	Classification Symbols	
IPC 4 US C1	A 61 C 1/07, 3/02, /03, 5/02 32:26-28, 56-58; 433:81, 86, 102, 118-127	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched ⁸		
SE, NO, DK, FI classes as above		
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT ⁹		
Category ¹⁰	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²	Relevant to Claim No. ¹³
X	EP, A1, 0 136 500 (DENTSPLY INTERNATIONAL INC..) 10 April 1985 & AU, 32771/84 US, 4518356 JP, 60150743	1-3
X	DE, A1, 2 822 949 (LITTON INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS, INC.) 29 November 1979	1-3
X	US, A 4 283 174 (SERTICH) 11 August 1981 & EP, 0028529 JP, 56083339 CA, 1165596	1-3
X	EP, A2, 0 106 632 (SYNTEX (USA) INC.) 25 April 1984 & JP, 59131345 US, 4484891 US, 4571183 .../...	4-6
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IV. CERTIFICATION		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report	
1986-06-25	1986-06-30	
International Searching Authority	Signature of Authorized Officer	
Swedish Patent Office	 Jack Hedlund	

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III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET)		
Category *	Citation of Document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No
X	EP, A1, 0 125 784 (CAVITRON, INC.) 21 November 1984 & AU, 23260/84 JP, 59194735 US, 4492574 AU, 547784	4-6
X	US, A, 4 505 676 (GONSER) 19 March 1985 & AU, 32782/84 EP, 0139960	4-6